



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia and Virginia Folklife Program of Virginia Humanities to host a two-day “Celebration of Virginia Folklife” event

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – The Library of Virginia and the Virginia Folklife Program of Virginia Humanities are presenting a free two-day celebration featuring documentary screenings, live music and more to highlight Virginia’s diverse and evolving folklife heritage. “A Celebration of Virginia Folklife” will be held July 7 and 8, 2023, at the Library as part of its yearlong [200th anniversary celebration](#).

“We’re excited to partner with the Virginia Folklife Program to provide the community with activities that celebrate old and new traditions rooted in Virginia,” said Dr. Sandra Treadway, Librarian of Virginia.

“The Library of Virginia is an ideal setting to celebrate this group of artists who are working to sustain and evolve traditions from the past into the future, in service of their communities and to share their culture with others,” added Katy Clune, director of the Virginia Folklife Program and Virginia state folklorist.

The celebration kicks off on **Friday, July 7**, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., with a reception, short screenings of apprenticeship documentaries and a stage program honoring teams in the Virginia Folklife Program’s 2022–2023 apprenticeship program. The following artists will be honored during Friday’s event:

- [Joshua Purnell of Norfolk](#), who is working to revive the Tidewater’s tradition of community blues dancing
- [D. Brad Hatch, who has trained fellow Patawomeck tribal members David Onks IV and Reagan Andersen](#) to weave eel pots in Fredericksburg
- [Kazem Davoudian and Alexander Sabet](#), whose Washington, D.C.-based apprenticeship centered on the *tar*, an Iranian long-necked string instrument
- [Isha M. Renta Lopez of Fredericksburg](#), who trained with one of the leaders in Bomba dance, Margarita Tata Cepeda of San Juan, Puerto Rico
- [Bernadette “B.J.” Lark of Roanoke, who is mentoring Alanjha Harris](#) in the Gullah Geechee gospel traditions

Registration is required for Friday’s event at <https://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/10720875>.

On **Saturday, July 8**, from noon to 4 p.m., the celebration continues with performances, displays and family activities highlighting old and new Virginia musical traditions, including blues, fiddling, shape-note singing and more. Performers include **Kadencia**, a Richmond-based Bomba and Plena band dedicated to playing, promoting and preserving Afro-Puerto Rican music ([and featuring 2023-2024 Folklife Apprentice Maurice](#)

[Sanabria](#)); **Eddie Bond**, an old-time fiddler from Fries, Virginia, and a 2018 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow; and **The Richmond Shape-Note Singers**, a group of community members who gather to sing early American music in the shape-note tradition.

The Library will also display rare items from its music collections and documentary films featuring Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship teams will be screening for drop-in viewing. Children's activities will include drawing and coloring projects based on musical themes, crafting with quilt squares, and building a didley bow (a simple, one-stringed instrument). Kids will also enjoy an instrument petting zoo where they can experience everything from ukuleles to mountain dulcimers.

Free limited parking is available in the Library's garage, which can be accessed from 8th and 9th streets. For more information, visit lva.virginia.gov/200.

Related images available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6d9witilixyiqte/AACWvaUE--dk54ENobkAiPwma?dl=0>

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ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 4 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in nearly 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at www.lva.virginia.gov.

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA FOLKLIFE PROGRAM

Since 1989, the Virginia Folklife Program of Virginia Humanities has worked to document, sustain, present, and support cultural traditions across the Commonwealth. The Virginia Folklife Program connects communities while honoring Virginia's evolving cultural heritage through educational events (like the Richmond Folk Festival), media production, and its Apprenticeship Program. Apprenticeship Program artists, through performances and publications, contribute to our understanding of how Virginians are evolving traditions into contemporary identity. To date, 147 teams (330 individuals) have received support through this program, representing forms of community expression as diverse as the Commonwealth itself. The Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program receives funding support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

ABOUT VIRGINIA HUMANITIES

Virginia Humanities is the state humanities council. We're headquartered in Charlottesville at the University of Virginia, but we serve the entire state. We aim to share the stories of all Virginians—or, better yet, find ways for people to share their own stories. We want Virginians to connect with their history and culture and, in doing that, we hope we'll all get to know each other a little better. Founded in 1974, we are one of 56 humanities councils created by Congress with money and support from the National Endowment for the Humanities to make the humanities available to all Americans. To learn more, visit VirginiaHumanities.org.